

LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR THE AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART IN INCIDENTS OF FRIENDLY FIRE DURING PEACE-KEEPING ACTIVITIES

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 1995

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Chairman, today I am introducing legislation to award the Purple Heart posthumously to members of the Armed Forces killed on April 14, 1994, in a friendly fire incident in the northern Iraqi "no fly" zone. Fourteen American service members on peacekeeping duty were killed when two American F-15C fighter aircraft accidentally shot down two United States UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters in northern Iraq. Mrs. Kaye Mounsey, the widow of Army WO Eric Mounsey—a pilot of one of the helicopters—resides in Culver City in my congressional district.

I believe that recognizing the sacrifice of these members of the Armed Forces is the appropriate thing to do. While the loss of a husband, brother, sister, or child can never be compensated, it is essential that we acknowledge the Nation's gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice that these Americans gave in service to their country.

Following the tragedy last April, the services had decided that the incident did not meet criteria for award of the Purple Heart—citing the accidental nature of the shoot down and the noncombat situation in the "no fly" zone.

However, language was included in last year's Department of Defense appropriations conference report which urged the Secretaries of the Army and the Air Force to review their decision and award the Purple Heart or other medal of distinction to service members killed over northern Iraq. The deadline for reporting back to Congress on this matter was March 31, 1995.

We have yet to hear from the military regarding this matter, and, as a result, I am introducing this bill to ensure award of the Purple Heart for members of the Armed Forces killed or wounded due to friendly fire while engaged in peacekeeping activities. I feel very strongly that if the services deem that the situation under which these Americans were killed did not merit the award, then the criteria for the medal should be modified.

As the role and complexity of U.S. Armed Forces missions have evolved, the criteria for award of the Purple Heart should reflect that evolution. In 1993 Congress included criteria in statute to ensure award of the Purple Heart in incidents of friendly fire in combat situations. This legislation would amend the law to include peacekeeping missions in that criteria, with an effective date of January 1, 1994—ensuring award of the Purple Heart to service members killed in the Iraqi friendly fire incident.

UNIONTOWN, PA AMERICAN LEGION POST TO HONOR LT. COL. MATT URBAN

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 1995

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, true American heroes hold an honored place in the hearts of all of us who love our Nation. The Congressional Medal of Honor is one of the ways we have chosen to honor their heroes, and it is an award that is only given to those individuals who have exhibited an exceptional amount of courage on behalf of the United States.

Lt. Col. Matt Urban is a true American hero and a Congressional Medal of Honor winner. His resume of awards does not stop here, however, as he is recognized as America's most decorated combat soldier. His bravery in numerous battles in World War II is an example of the courage so many American soldiers showed in this monumental struggle.

The Uniontown, PA American Legion Post 51 holds an annual Americanism Day each year, and this year's event will take place on May 1. The American Legion has chosen to honor Lt. Col. Matt Urban this year, and he will serve as Grand Marshal of the parade which marks the highlight of this special celebration. I know the American Legion Post 51 is extremely excited to have Lt. Col. Urban as their guest of honor, and as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the conclusion of World War II, I can't think of a more appropriate guest for this event.

I know I join all Americans in saluting Lt. Col. Matt Urban for his courage and devotion to the United States, and I wish the Uniontown American Legion Post 51 all the best in their 40th annual Americanism Day celebration.

A TRIBUTE TO CARMEN PINA

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 1995

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young woman who represents the finest qualities of human nature. Carmen Pina, a student from the city of Pawtucket, has shown her entire community what it means to have grace under pressure. Carmen recently lost her father to Lou Gehrig's disease, a crippling illness that was emotionally draining on Carmen's entire family. Rather than succumb to perpetual sadness Carmen focused her energies on improving the quality of her own life.

Recently Carmen has been honored with several awards that have become a testament to her hard work and dedication to life. Not only has she helped her family, natives of Portugal, get back on the path to emotional recovery, but she has excelled in her own work, and has been named valedictorian of the senior class at Charles E. Shea High School in Pawtucket. Today, Carmen is 1 of 88 students from around the country to win this year's Horatio Alger scholarship. This coveted award is reserved only for those who have overcome the obstacles of life and made a commitment

to helping others in their times of need. I think I speak for all the citizens of Rhode Island when I say that we are all enamored by Carmen's courage and extremely proud of her.

Next year Carmen will attend college. As she embarks on this new and exciting journey I want to wish her only the best that life can offer. I know that these last years have been difficult, but in the days ahead I encourage her to continue to draw strength from these difficult times. The special relationship that she had with her father is a memory that can never be taken away, and a constant reminder that life must be cherished.

I hope that we can all learn a valuable lesson from Carmen's example. She has shown us that when times are hard it is a strong spirit that survives. Fulfillment is defined not only by what makes us happy, but by how we create a better life for ourselves by gaining strength from the people that we love most. My thoughts go out to Carmen and her family and I hope that her father's love remains eternal in all their hearts.

TRIBUTE TO BOB HUNTER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 1995

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 1, 1995, the First Annual Bob Hunter Memorial Flounder Tournament was held at the Clam Hut Restaurant in Highland, NJ. There was a spring flounder weigh-in and other activities, with proceeds benefiting the environmental organization Clean Ocean Action. While there have been and will continue to be many diverse tributes to the late Bob Hunter, I cannot think of one more fitting in epitomizing what Mr. Hunter's life meant to his many friends and well-wishers on the Jersey shore.

Bob Hunter has been nominated for New Jersey's prestigious Pinnacle Award for Excellence by a number of individuals and organizations who have all been helped and supported by him through the years. Throughout his life, he was a tireless booster of his native State—for example, his restaurant always offered a wide variety of New Jersey wines, while he always made sure Jersey seafood was served at the promotional festivals he helped organize. His death last October has left a void that has been deeply felt, most acutely by his widow, Lynn, and his two daughters, Maggie and Elizabeth, but also by many others who had the privilege of working with him or were just lucky enough to meet him at the Clam Hut.

Bob Hunter was born in Red Bank, NJ, and lived all his life in the nearby town of Rumson. Nineteen years ago, he was named general manager of the Clam Hut, one of the leading restaurants in a town noted for fine restaurants. In the intervening years, he, along with his wife of 17 years, Lynn Shugard, whose father founded the business, brought the waterfront restaurant from a beachfront stand to its present capacity of more than 300 diners in three inside rooms and an outdoor deck overlooking the Shrewsbury River. As general manager, Mr. Hunter also became involved in both the State and national restaurant associations, firmly believing that restaurants were central to New Jersey's tourism